(12) AUSTRALIAN PATENT ABSTRACT
(19) AU

(11) AU-A-25136/84

AU 84 25136

(54) COMMUNICATION BOARD FOR VEHICLES

(75) JOHN WILLIAM GUTHRIE

(21) 25136/84 (22) 2.3.83 (23) 28.2.84 (24) 2.3.83

(43) 6.9.84

(51)3 G09F 11/00 G09F 21/04 G09F 1/00

(74) MN

(57) Claim

1. A communication board whereon it is possible to display in turn a number of short messages, the selection of message to be displayed being operated by appropriate handling of a message indicator.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PATENTS ACT 1952-1969

Form 10

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

(ORIGINAL)

25136/84

FOR OFFICE USE

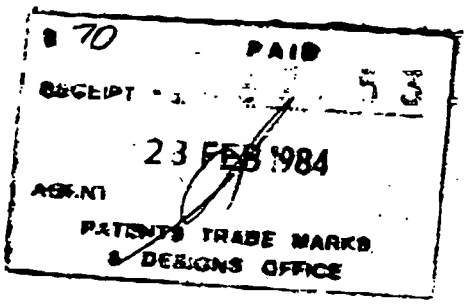
Class Int. Class

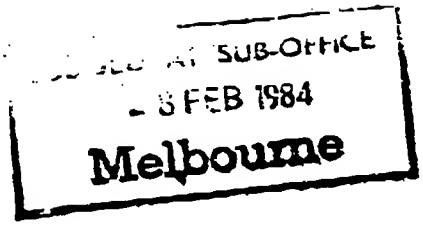
Application Number:
Lodged:

Complete Specification—Lodged:
Accepted:
Published:

Priority:

Related Art:





TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

Name of Applicant: JOHN WILLIAM GUTHRIE

Address of Applicant: 14 Railway Crescent
Croydon..3137
Victoria, Australia

Actual Inventor: John William Guthrie

Address for Service: Noel Moline
34 Sims Street,
Sandringham, 3191

Complete Specification for the invention entitled:

Communication Means

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me:—*

*Note: The description is to be typed in double spacing, pica type face, in an area not exceeding 9¾" in depth and 6½" in width, on tough white paper of good quality and it is to be inserted inside this form.

F. D. ATKINSON, Government Printer, Canberra

The present invention relates to means whereby messages can be communicated from one car to another.

Sometimes the driver of one car feels the urge to pass a message, complimentary or otherwise to the driver of an adjacent or passing car, but in these days of fast cars, car radios and cassettes and air conditioning, it is not always easy to do so. The object of the present invention is to provide simple means for passing visual messages from one car to another.

Accordingly the present invention provides a communication board whereon it is possible to display in turn a number of short messages, the selection of message to be displayed being operated by appropriate handling of a message indicator.

Preferably the communication board is hand held, and the individual messages are set out on flaps hinged to the top of the board whereby selection of the appropriate message on the indicator allows the flaps to hinge about the top of the communication board and to expose the desired message.

Alternatively the communication board can be in the nature of an electronic display or displays wherein the message can be flashed by appropriate selection on a control panel.

Thus it is possible for the driver of a car, or his passenger to display a message to be read by the driver or passengers of another car or cars.

But in order that the invention may be more clearly understood reference will now be made to the accompanying drawing wherein a preferred embodiment of the board is shown.

A hand held communication board comprises a light weight plastic, wooden or metal panel 12 having a simple, preferably a single word, message 13 affixed thereto in a contrast colour to be readily visible. The panel 12 has a straight handle 14 extending outwardly from its base to be readily grasped by the person passing the message. At the top of the panel are two spaced apart holes 15 to accommodate a pair of rings 16. A number of similar width but shorter flaps 17 are provided, each having a similar pair of spaced apart holes to receive the rings so that when assembled, the flaps are adapted to hinge about the panel by means of said rings, and to lie flat against said panel, each flap having index means 18 at the side opposite said hinged side so that the message on either side of each flap and on the panel are readily visible. Thus when it is desired to pass a particular message to a passing car, it is merely a matter of selecting the desired message on the index, flicking the handle of the board so that the flaps 17 on top of the flap bearing the desired message hinge about the rings and the top of the panel to fall flat against the back of the panel, the desired message then been exposed to view.

The communication board can be held against the rear, front or side windows dependent on the location of the car to which the message is directed. When the message is directed to a car ahead of the message car, the message may be in reverse lettering so that it is readily understood by the driver in the front car looking through his rear vision mirror.

Due to the relative movement between the cars, their speed and the small size of the communication board (about 8" X 8"), it is preferred that the message be simple, such as the polite 'HELLO or THANK YOU', or the less polite 'STUPID

or SUNDAY DRIVER'.

By use of these simple messages, it is possible to convey appreciation of the thoughtfulness of another driver in perhaps giving right-of-way or the like. Similarly a sharp reminder that his actions do not meet with another driver's approval, may cause the first driver to concentrate more fully on his driving, while at the same time allowing the second driver a vent for his frustrations.

Preferably the index means on the communication board are in the nature of a rectangle cut out from the flaps, each cut-out exposing a short tab on the flap below, so that the bottom flap has the smallest cut-out and the top flap the largest. In this way, a finger on the selected message index tab acts to hold the flaps below against the panel, while allowing the flaps above the flap having the desired message to swing about the ring hinges.

Obviously other forms of hinges, handles and index means may be used in the above described communication board.

In another embodiment, not shown, an electric communication board or boards may be permanently installed in a car (even including one for back-seat drivers), the messages being capable of being flashed on a screen following selection thereof on a control panel.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the present invention provides a simple but effective way of conveying a visible message from one car to another.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:-

1. A communication board whereon it is possible to display in turn a number of short messages, the selection of message to be displayed being operated by appropriate handling of a message indicator.

2. A communication board as claimed in claim 1 wherein the board is hand held and individual messages are set out on flaps hinged to the top of the board whereby selection of the appropriate message on the indicator allows the flaps to hinge about the top of the communication board and to expose the desired message.

3. A communication board as claimed in claim 2 wherein the flaps are hinged on a pair of rings accommodated in two spaced apart holes in the top of the board.

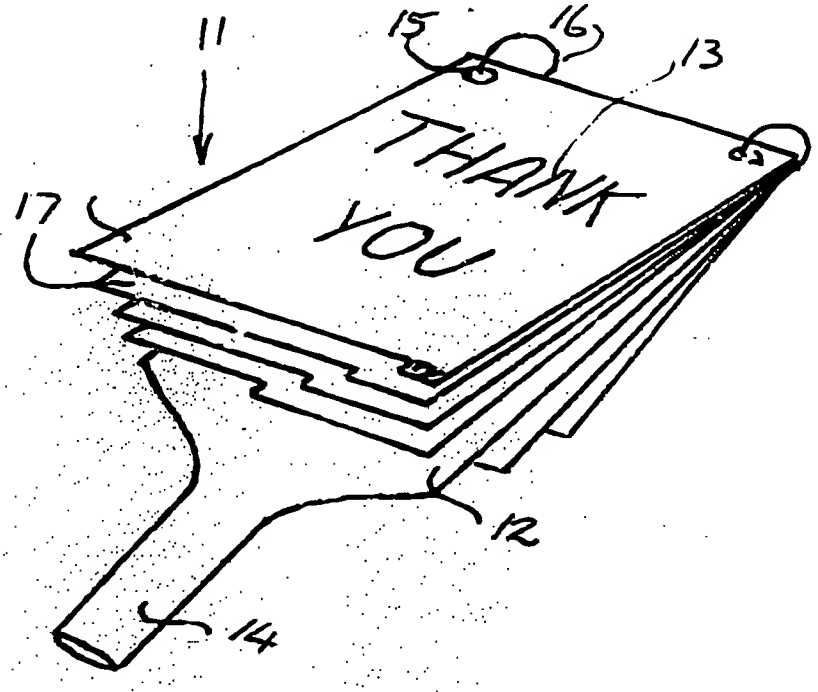
4. A communication board as claimed in claim 1 wherein the board is in the nature of an electronic display or displays wherein the message can be flashed by appropriate selection on a control panel.

5. A communication board substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawing.

D A T E D this 17 day of February, 1984.

JOHN WILLIAM GUTHRIE
by his Patent Attorney.

NOEL MOLINE.


11
15
16
13
THANK
YOU
17
12
14